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Thank you very much.

MR. ENSSLIN: Thank you, Randy.

George Matz.

MR. MATZ: Yes. Good evening.

MR. ENSSLIN: George, you have two minutes.

MR. MATZ: My name is George Matz. I'm the news director for WMTW Channel 8 serving the Portland/Auburn market. We are owned by Hurst Argyle television, one of the most reputable broadcast companies in the country. When Hurst Argyle bought this station they gave their staff one directive, to attempt to become the market leader in local news and weather coverage. We knew if we did that, the audience would build itself.

The staff making the coverage decisions everyday at WMTW are not in New York. We live Portland, Scarborough, Westbrook, Lewiston, Auburn, Biddeford, and throughout the community. We are fathers and mothers who are involved in our schools, our churches, and our neighborhoods. Our company has the financial wherewithal to provide us with the most up-to-date broadcast equipment, and the staffing resources to better cover our market.

During breaking news and weather situations our station does not hesitate to preempt network programs or commercials to cover local situations no matter what the

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cost. And when minutes matter, our coverage can help protect lives in emergency situations. The resources provided by our parent company enable us to help families, tell incredible stories, and bring our community together through our news and weather coverage each day.

Our newsroom partners with local charities and community groups, and we're able to bring Mainers together to help one another. We work with the Red Cross to inform our viewers daily of blood drives. We work with local hospitals to produce timely and important medical information for our viewers. We're able to provide our audience comprehensive political coverage over the air and on our website, WMTW.com.

We encourage and invite feedback from our viewers who tell us quickly if we are not serving their needs. If we are not, they will quickly turn the channel to find better local coverage. We do everything in your power everyday to keep that from happening.

Thank you.

MR. ENSSLIN: Thank you, George.

Tory Ryden?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: She's not here.

MR. ENSSLIN: Emily Sapienza.

MS. SAPIENZA: Thank you.

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MR. ENSSLIN: Emily, you have two minutes.

MS. SAPIENZA: My name is Emily Sapienza. I'm the general manager of WRFR-LP in Rockland and Camden, Maine. It's an honor for me to be here.

(Audience applause.)

We are the only radio station broadcasting in Knox County live from inside the county, and it's been really interesting to hear people talk about competing in -- you know, doing local news in Portland because that's what it takes to be competitive in the market. Come to Rockland. You know, have a hearing up there. Turn on the radio when you come. There's no local news. And the only local news you'll get comes out of WRFR-LP.

Two things I want to talk about: Diversity -- diversity and access. We don't have to cater to -- as an LPFM, we don't cater to commercial interests, and that gives us the ability to be as diverse as we want, to have everything -- everything -- you know, we talk -- other people have talked about the -- I'm sorry, I lost my train of thought. Oh, what the listenership wants, what's the biggest listenership. What about the people who don't want to hear what the majority wants. That's a minority, just in listening diversity.

We have all kinds of programming for that smaller minority. At the same time, our programmers, anyone can

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come to WRFR, and if they follow our guidelines and yours, they can have a show. And that means that there is a wide array of people who have access to the airwaves. They couldn't get a job in commercial radio, right? I have -- like I see 20 percent of my volunteers have either physical or developmental disabilities. There is one guy, he is my webmaster, and he works at Shaw's. He collects carts. They will not let him bag groceries, and at community radio he's a valued member and a valued colleague.

Thank you very much.

MR. ENSSLIN: Thank you, Emily.

Zoe?

MS. ARMSTRONG: My name is Zoe Armstrong. I'm an on-air programmer at WRFR low-power radio in Rockland, Maine.

WRFR has had local high school students as on-air programmers and also for interviews. The low-power local community station gives these young people an incredible educational opportunity, giving them hands-on experience in the production studio. Our station has provided students living in the surrounding rural communities a place to learn about new technologies, communications, and on-air broadcasting. They would not have exposure to this level of technical skill if WRFR

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did not exist.

Our station provides early experience in professionalism, following station policies, and adherence to FCC guidelines. Upon walking in the doors, students, and all of our volunteers, can participate in the maintenance and leadership of WRFR.

The format of local radio is not restrictive nor commercial, which allows an open forum for honest discussion from a very diverse spectrum of voices of local issues. Our community of Rockland, Camden, Rockport and Thomaston has a precious resource in the existence of WRFR-LP. I hope that the FCC would agree that small local stations are valuable to communities; so valuable, in fact, that not only should communities nationwide have the freedom to apply for new low-power licensure, but communities should be urged to have LP stations so local radio format is available.

There has been some discussion tonight about sustaining our democratic society. I am proud of Maine for standing up in this forum and sending a clear message to what our priorities are. Most in this room are not naive to the fact that many aspects of the democracy we cherish and are keeping alive here today are holding on by a thread.

I feel that the FCC has a historic opportunity here

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to align its vision as a reflection of the vision of the American people. Allowing a variety of independent local voices in media and supporting our long-term survival is essential to the life our democracy.

Thank you for being here tonight.

(Audience applause.)

MR. ENSSLIN: Thank you, Zoe.

Now, the next five names I'd like to call to come to down to this microphone are Peter Sirois, Peter McLaughlin, Scott Jones, Claire Holman, and Tom Handel.

And we are next going to hear from Barry Pretzel on this side.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Not here.

MR. ENSSLIN: Barry is not here.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Cathy is not here.

MR. ENSSLIN: Cathy McGuinness.

Susan Rowan?

MS. ROWAN: That would be me. Good evening. I'm Susan Rowan. I'm the Executive Director of the Maine Cancer Foundation, a Maine based charity funding cancer research, education, and patient support programs.

Unlike other states, in Maine cancer is a leading cause of death. While we are making great strides in early detection and advanced treatment, we have a long way to go before our future is free of this disease.

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The Maine Cancer Foundation depends on donations from individuals, businesses, and community groups to support its mission. We have found one way to both raise funds, celebrate life and the hope that research provides, is to organize special events.

As you might imagine, getting the word out to invite participation is also one of the challenges. One of the best vehicle promotions is with local radio stations. They have broad listenership and a commitment to addressing the issues that affect them. I have found working with the stations in this marketplace to be very beneficial. They have been eager to help and generous with their time and talent.

For instance, for the past nine years, the oldies station at Portland Radio Group has been a media sponsor for Mary's Walk, a walk/run event in Saco, that last year had over 2,000 participants and raised \$180,000 for cancer research. The oldies station aired PSA's, linked to our website, and talked up the event on air; and on event day, one of the personalities came to play music and meet and greet the public.

We've also had tremendous support from almost every other station -- radio, TV, paper, cable, everybody. They're just terrific, the small sampling of assistance local media provides. The Maine Cancer Foundation is

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grateful for the support of the station management, on-air personalities, and production crews who work tirelessly to improve their local communities. Their commitment and support is one of the key reasons the Maine Cancer Foundation is able to make the difference it does in the fight against cancer in Maine.

Thank you.

(Audience applause.)

MR. ENSSLIN: Thank you, Susan.

Kristin Levesque. Is Kristin Levesque here?

David Schwartz? David, you have two minutes.

MR. SCHWARTZ: I'm David Schwartz. I live in Somerville, Massachusetts, often go by the name of Jed. I just made a few -- I'm sort of an aspiring sociologist and observer. I made a few notes here I'll just go over.

Financial lobbying, transparency, and the disclosure of contributions are things that the FCC could continue to do or begin to do. Auditing for political accuracy and fairness. Reduced advertising time allocations would reduce attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, I believe. Public disclosure of the media's tax burdens would be useful for our political debate. I have no idea how much these companies are paying, but I think it should be more.

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Diversity of controlling ownership knowledge sources would be an antidote against disinformation and propaganda. And I'm under the impression that there is a good deal of disinformation and propaganda going around on the airwaves these days, and that's a weakness of our society, given the looming threat of climate change that most of us are aware of, and yet we haven't managed to discuss that here.

We appear, to me, to be -- as a nation to be in a bit of a rat hole led by a media with an insatiable appetite for ever-larger profits to which end this media tends to appeal to our collective baser instincts. Adult viewers should be addressed as adults rather than as sometimes seems to be the case, children; that is, no Viagra ads before 10:00 or 9:00 p.m., and no Viagra ads on Sunday afternoons. There are kids watching, and -- the kids can't decide whether they're kids or adults, and I think that's contributing to the confusion in the society.

MR. ENSSLIN: Jed --

MR. SCHWARTZ: That's it?

MR. ENSSLIN: Time is up.

MR. SCHWARTZ: Sorry.

(Audience applause.)

MR. ENSSLIN: The next speaker on the right will be

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Matthew Killmeier: Matthew, you have two minutes.

MR. KILLMEIER: Thank you. My name is Matthew Killmeier. I'm a resident of Portland, and a professor of communications at the University of Southern Maine. I'll focus on news, that I consider it the lifeblood of our democracy; and I teach journalism, so I have a personal interest.

Portland, like many communities over the past 25 years, has seen its news market affected by tendencies in the media industries that really have taken off; specifically concentration of ownership and an attendant decline in diversity. The Portland news environment is marked by concentrated ownership anywhere from 82 to 86 percent, that is based elsewhere, where many of the -- with many of the companies being horizontally and vertically integrated, with the exception of the newspaper.

This impacts the diversity of the news and viewpoints, connection with and responsibility to the community and its democratic life and resources devoted to news production. Diversity is a keystone of broadcast regulation, according to the Supreme Court. Portland lacks diversity of ownership. This limits the diversity of viewpoints presented. Concentrated ownership that is vertically and horizontally integrated

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is less likely to devote resources to important news production, the kind local communities need to be effectively self-governing and more apt to do soft news stories or to run PR video news releases as news.

Too little of local broadcast news is devoted to pertinent issues, such as the city council meetings, races, state bond issues, et cetera; while too much is devoted to stories of -- on such fodder as the iPhone, fans of American Idol, and excessive coverage of the weather. Too often broadcast news is drawn from the newspaper. Few local original stories are produced.

Studies back up these impressions. Stations owned by smaller companies produce better quality news and devote more time to it which is significant in the broadcast arena. The type of ownership is also significant to localism. Companies based elsewhere are less responsive to and accountable --

MR. ENSSLIN: Matthew your time is up.

MR. KILLMEIER: Thank you.

MR. ENSSLIN: Thank you.

The next five names I'd like to call on this side by this microphone, Pete Cavanaugh, Seth Berner, Alan Frankel, Jim Lohmeyer, and Amy Browne, which gets us up through number 90.

And the next speaker on this side, David Wade. Is

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David here?

Jim Rand. Jim, speak now.

Bryan Reeves?

MR. REEVES I'm on this side. Is that okay?

MR. ENSSLIN: Are you Bryan Reeves?

MR. REEVES: Yes, I am.

MR. ENSSLIN: Okay.

MR. REEVES: Greetings. I'm here to ask that you please consider amending or your working definition of obscenity. You levy fines when Brent Bozell hears about body parts and functions. I contend that you should regulate the far more heinous obscenities prevalent on our over-consolidated broadcast media; namely, the lies and omissions that have led and will lead to more apathy, torture, and illegal war.

(Audience applause.)

The vast majority of the local and national -- the vast majority of the local and national information spectrum has been poisoned by Orwellian versions of language, logic, and good faith injected into our discourse by unaccountable and unAmerican multinational corporations who rip and read RNC talking points crafted by the likes of Frank Luntz to fool we the people into voting against our own interests.

One local TV station is owned by Hurst Argyle.

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When last I checked, Hurst is still in the encyclopedia under yellow journalism. But make no mistake, such propaganda is not just a thing of the past. We illegally invaded Iraq because the people were deliberately malinformed by broadcast and print media.

A recent poll showed that 41 percent of Americans now believe the deliberately planted suggestion that Saddam Hussein was involved in the false flag operation we call 9-11. It is an established -- it is established fact that Hussein and Bin Ladin, while mortal enemies, were both creations of our very own spy agencies. But most people don't know that. Why? Well, it's by design. A Pugh research study showed the more someone watched Fox News, the less they knew and the more they thought they knew. But we're wrong.

The GAO caught the current regime planting over a billion dollars in illegal covert propaganda in the broadcast media you regulate. None of these local broadcasters are serving the public interest when they broadcast these fake news releases or unthinkingly promote the latest propaganda to media du jour.

With think tanks framing debate to suit their so called public relation needs, what have you done to ensure the public is no longer subjected to these deadly lies and manipulations? The first Homeland Security

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Secretary Tom Ridge admitted the administration announced terror warnings without proper justification, which were then parroted by local broadcasters. Is it not a crime to use our airwaves to terrorize the public for political purposes?

MR. ENSSLIN: Bryan, times is up.

(Audience applause.)

MR. ENSSLIN: David Barber-Callaghan. David, you have to two minutes.

MR. BARBER-CALLAGHAN: Well, many people talking today have talked about our country as a democracy, which is mostly true, but I'm always a guy for technicalities. It's a representative democracy, and if it is, in fact, a representative, shouldn't our media also be representative of the people within the local community?

Let's look at our own media within Portland to see if that's true. It is not. Four media conglomerates own 86 percent of the media. And I have decided to look on my own group, youth, to see how we're represented.

People, youth, aged between 16 and 25 years of age, together in Portland we represent approximately 28 percent of the populace. So shouldn't we also be 28 percent of the media? No. This, too, was a fallacy in Portland. This group, 28 percent, is only 6 percent of

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the media. I am part of this 6 percent. I am part of Blunt Youth Radio Project, which is one of -- which is on one of our truly local radio stations, WMPG, a community radio station, which is one of the few places where we can be free of the commercialism that takes our representative democracy and it makes it an oligarchy.

Thank you.

(Audience applause.)

MR. ENSSLIN: Thank you.

Jim Schaufenbil?

MR. SCHAUFENBIL: Good evening. Thank you, Commissioners, for this opportunity. My name is Jim Schaufenbil. I live in Manchester, New Hampshire, and I've been, for about 25 years, a newspaper reporter gathering news in New Hampshire; and I've worked most of those years at the Manchester Union Leader, still an independently owned newspaper. For the last nine years I've been working on the staff of the newspaper guild, CWA, which is the union that represents newspaper reporters.

I want to talk tonight -- I want to center my remarks on those years of news gathering, and looking at specifically the collection and dissemination of news by the media conglomerates. It has been my experience that when news gathering is locally owned and locally

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managed, three things happen: One, there is more indepth coverage of crucial local issues; two, there is more diversity in that coverage; and three, there is greater variety of viewpoint in that coverage. In short, communities are better served.

(Audience applause.)

It's been almost a half a century since Newton Minow offered his challenge in the vast wasteland speech. I believe consolidated corporate ownership is, once again, leading us back down that path.

In New Hampshire, in my state, the debate over whether or not we should become the final state in the nation to adopt an adult seat belt law has taken a back seat to Paris Hilton's antics; and locally funded consideration of our children's education, a complex crucial story, has been bumped off the headlines by Anna Nicole Smith's autopsy. Vast wastelands indeed.

Equally important is what to --

MR. ENSSLIN: Jim, time is up.

MR. SCHAUFENBIL: -- is covered and not covered.

Thank you.

MR. ENSSLIN: Thank you.

CJ?

MR. BETIT: Yes. I'm a serial clicker. It doesn't matter if it's TV or radio, I click through the

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station. One thing that always catches my attention is the local content. Whether it's 207 or Bill Green's Maine, which have been mentioned by panelists tonight, a few high school basketball games that find their way on TV or even a local poker competition, I stop. Why? Because it's familiar. I want to know what's happening around me, and maybe even see a neighbor.

Unfortunately, these local choices are few and far between. While I can typically always find a Paris Hilton update while clicking through, local updates simply can't be found. Why? What I've heard today is corporate broadcasters are making their localism quota through weather and disaster alerts. This is nothing special. To put this information out is a no-brainer at best.

Further, passing along alerts does not take great financial resources; and what this is, is simply information. This isn't news. I want to know what's happening in my community, not what's happening to my community. If this information is what the broadcasters consider local content, they're mistaken. I want investigative reports and to not know just what happened, but why.

Another argument I've heard from corporate broadcasters today is that we give lots of money to

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organizations. Well, while certainly noble, I find this argument essentially distasteful, like the corporations can buy their localism quota. I don't wear my contributions to --

(Audience applause.)

-- charity on my sleeve, and this complete lack of humility demonstrates most clearly how these corporate broadcasters aren't in touch with the humble folks of this state, as if others would not give. And if this truly is about market competition, why haven't these corporate broadcasters responded to the people, the market that's here tonight asking for more and created more local content to meet these demands.

The solution to eliminating this role of money and above market corporate profit margins that these --

MR. ENSSLIN: CJ, time is up.

MR. BETIT: Thank you.

(Audience applause.)

MR. ENSSLIN: Thank you.

The next five names I'd like to call on the right-hand side to come down by the microphone are Robin Bergman, George Barrett, Rob Rosenthal, Conrad Willeman, and Seabury Lyon, which gets through number 95.

And the next speaker on the right side is Steve Hirschon.

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MR. HIRSCHON: Thank you. I want to welcome the Commissioners here to Portland, and the staff. And if you don't have a chance -- if you haven't had a chance to have an Italian sandwich while you're here, unlike a lobster, true Portland cuisine is an Italian sandwich, so please do have one. I'm not a -- I'm not saying that as a plug.

I'm a long term volunteer at WMPG Community Radio here in Portland, and certainly I've done my share of support of bone marrow drives. And I'm very pleased to say that in the last election cycle, I was the -- I believe the only radio broadcaster to have local candidates for city council on the air discussing the issues. But I'm here more as a media consumer. And like a lot of the other people who have spoken this evening, there really needs to be more representation.

By looking at the crowd and listening to the people who are here today, you wouldn't know that there are 40 odd languages spoken in the Portland public schools, or that nearly 25 percent of the students now are students of -- people of color. You just don't see that representation, and I really think that there are ways that you folks can work on that.

With the digital spectrum, you can slice the salami a little thinner all the way along the line, create more

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supply. With more supply there will be more opportunity for media ownership.

Thank you very much.

(Audience applause.)

MR. ENSSLIN: Thank you, Steve.

Karl Rawstron?

Sally Herbert?

MS. HEBERT: Sally Hebert.

MR. ENSSLIN: Okay.

MS. HEBERT: Good evening, Commissioners. Welcome to Maine.

Localism is not just local radio stations or affiliate stations. Since the early 1980's local access television stations, PEG stations, have been sprouting up across this vast state. This is localism; local people providing the way to empower the people of the state to broadcast many hours of local programming. Localism is here, now, by the people, for the people, a way for the people to express their views, pro and con.

In 1988 localism for television media began in Greene, Maine, a town probably 50 miles north of here. The town was approached by the cable provider if they wanted a PEG station. I asked what it was. What does it need? What does it do? I thought, what a way to capture the true picture of what is going on in the

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community to the residents, instead of the people hearing the next morning of the selectmens meeting of just -- one person's one-sided view at the local coffee shop.

This is localism. Localism is providing local programming, both large and rebroadcast, of city, town government at work from three board of selectmen meetings to large city council meetings, not to mention the historical event for some towns in Maine, the annual town meeting. Local access stations provide their media the opportunity to let residents see the entirety of these minutes, not just a 30 second snippet of the meeting.

The affiliate stations will show up in your community on the new -- to show news if there is a tragedy in your town, but not if something good is happening or you're trying to save the local historical building or a local library. Think localism when reviewing the telephone companies providing cable television to residents. Make sure local access channels, PEG channels, are still going to be available.

We are but in Maine, and communities across this country, broadcasting of all sports, concerts, competitions that the youth of America are engaged in.

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In Maine you only get the sports scores, and if there are any marvelous plays, you might see that one touchdown. On local access channels, you can see the whole game.

MR. ENSSLIN: Thank you, Sally. Your time is up.

MS. HEBERT: Thank you.

(Audience applause.)

MR. ENSSLIN: Susan Cook? Is Susan Cook here?

I'm going to go now to this side.

Peter Sirois?

MR. SIROIS: That's correct.

MR. ENSSLIN: Peter, you have two minutes.

MR. SIROIS: Mr. Moderator, in reference to that medium sized library that was laid on your feet, I have no gifts to bring.

My name is Peter Sirois, and I am an independent producer of a public access television program called Maine Social Justice. If you don't know what Social Justice is, they haven't given me enough time to explain to you what it is.

My work is regularly seen in three -- on three public access channels in the Waterville, Skowhegan, and Farmington areas. I am also a regular contributor to a show out of Lewiston called Maine Video Activist Network.

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My concern is that the FCC is now considering giving control to large media corporations; control that is now managed locally in Maine communities. As things stand presently, local access stations will play any nonlibellous, nonpornographic material that I submit. My work often criticizes the larger corporations that pay for advertising in the mainstream media. The reason I can do this is that the local access channels do not need funding from large corporations to operate. Theirs is a shoestring budget. I do not need corporate money to produce shows. My shoestrings are even shorter than the access channels'.

If, for instance, today I criticize a large corporation for predatory practices, and I can document those practices, they may not use their -- they may use their clout to remove me from the cable station just because I make them look bad. If control of access TV is given to them, the large corporations, they will not hesitate to do so.

There was someone that talked about, you know, they give lots of money to charity. The local access channels don't have millions of dollars to give away, a couple thousand dollars. However, it's a goal of most access channels to remove the need for charity.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's right.

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(Audience applause.)

MR. ENSSLIN: Thank you, Peter.

The next five names I'd like to call on this side to come down to the microphone are Marian Schmidt, Charlie Remy, Loretta McKinnon, Carl Loomis, and Dave Chipman.

And the next speaker on this side is Peter McLaughlin.

Scott Jones?

Claire Holman?

MS. HOLMAN: Thank you.

MR. ENSSLIN: Claire, you have two minutes.

MS. HOLMAN: Thank you. I'm Claire Holman. I'm the director of Blunt Youth Radio Project at WMPG Greater Portland Community Radio. I produce a weekly call-in public affairs talk show with 50 high school students from 10 different schools, a juvenile incarceration facility, and a local youth immigrant group. And to paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, the future of our country, indeed of the world, is in the hands of children.

But how are the local broadcast media serving young people? Ask the TV and radio stations if they have any programming, not just public service announcements, that bring young people into the public conversation on

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important issues.

Youth programming is confined almost entirely to sports and entertainment, but young people need to think about a lot more than spoiled nobodies like Paris -- uh -- hm-mm.

In just a few years, these teenagers will be taking society's reins, and in Maine we have a serious problem -- a serious social and economic problem, brain drain. Our young people are leaving our state, and they're not necessarily coming back. How are our local broadcasters encouraging our young people to stay here in the state and make it economically powerful?

If local broadcast media, and print for that matter, are interested in our communities, they should give youth a serious forum for media involvement. Again programming, not just public service announcements, but real public affairs programs.

Teens in Blunt Youth Radio Project have won national awards and presented at conferences around the country. But back in Maine, commercial broadcasters offer very little local programming and too much phony talk radio that's a shame and a sham, and nothing challenging where young people can see themselves, not the Donald Trumps, not those people, but themselves, in action.